

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6324
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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TAGS: EEC, JA, ETRD
SUBJ: EUROPEAN COUNCIL, APRIL 7-8, 1978: PRESS CONFERENCE
REMARKS ON EC/JAPAN TRADE

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 6633; (B) COPENHAGEN 2332

1. BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFINGS FOLLOWING THE APRIL 7-8 EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING APPEAR TO CONFIRM THAT AT LEAST SOME EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SHARE THE BASICALLY NEGATIVE VIEWS OF THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS (REF A) REGARDING THE OUTCOME OF THE EC COMMISSION'S MARCH 22-24 TRADE TALKS IN TOKYO WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS.

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2. COMMENTING ON THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL'S CONCLUSIONS ON EC/JAPAN TRADE RELATIONS (REF B), FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT EMPHASIZED TO REPORTERS THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE OUTCOME OF THE TOKYO TALKS ONLY ON THE BASIS OF THE COMMISSION'S ASSURANCE THAT THE MARCH 24 JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ONLY A FIRST STEP AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE GOJ WILL CONTINUE.

3. A BELGIAN DELEGATION OF OFFICIAL TOLD REPORTERS THAT
THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DID NOT DISCUSS JAPANESE TRADE IN
ANY DETAIL BUT THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND
UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN BOTH COMMENTED CRITICALLY ON THE
COMMISSION'S TOKYO PERFORMANCE.

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